

JORDAN TIMES

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Once again, Vietnam

IS IT NOW the Soviet Union's turn to enter the Indochinese quagmire which once ensnared first France and then the United States? Will China push its "counterattack" against Vietnamese forces on the border to the point that it becomes a full-scale Chinese invasion, or occupation, of Vietnam? Is this the beginning of World War III?

These are some of the questions raised by the dramatic Chinese thrust into northern Vietnam during the weekend. Once again the people of Southeast Asia find themselves swept up and displaced by war, with its particularly heavy toll on the civilian population.

The current crisis has been brewing for some months, particularly since Vietnam began deporting its nationals of Chinese origin, forcing some 200,000 of them to cross into China. The Chinese say the latest fighting is a limited action aimed at ending months of attacks and encroachments on Chinese territory by Vietnamese insurgents based along the border. "Driven beyond forbearance, Chinese frontier troops have been forced to rise in counterattack," says Peking. China adds that its position is that "we will not attack unless we are attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counterattack." Deng Xiaoping has made it clear in this context that "we Chinese do not act rashly," and "we mean what we say."

Since China has for some time had more than 150,000 men, backed by aircraft and tanks, stationed along the Vietnamese border, there is speculation that they might have deliberately provoked these latest incidents. Why? The only conceivable explanation—given added credence by the tenor of Mr. Deng's remarks during and after his recent visit to the U.S.—would be to "teach the Russians a lesson."

The Soviets, of course, are the staunch supporters of the Communist regime in Vietnam, which is itself vehemently anti-Chinese. This Vietnamese-Chinese mutual hostility, going back centuries, is something so inbred in the two peoples that its intensity is sometimes difficult for the rest of us to understand. Certainly the U.S. never understood it in the days of its Vietnam debacle, when Dean Rusk and the like used to talk about the Communist Vietnamese as the puppets of the (then hated) regime in Peking.

But if today's sad events, following on the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea last month, give the lie to the "domino theory", they are also a tragic by-product of a new struggle for superpower supremacy in Southeast Asia. The Chinese appear to be justified in viewing the Vietnamese as the historical imperialists of the entire region. But in countering these "nationalist expansionist" tendencies of the Vietnamese, the Chinese have seen fit in recent years to lend support and credibility to a genocidal Cambodian regime, and, more recently, to harbour the criminal perpetrators of that genocide when they were displaced by a Vietnamese invasion.

Vietnam has extracted a 25-year treaty commitment from the Soviet Union under which each country will come to the aid of the other if attacked; Moscow has now said it intends to honour its obligations under that treaty. The stage is thus set, if not for World War III, at least for an ugly superpower confrontation growing out of the complex tangle of historical Indochinese rivalries and suspicions. The trouble is that by the time the killing, and dying, are well under way, it will be too late to affix the blame.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Y Monday strongly thinks that Egypt and Israel would eventually sign a separate peace treaty. It says the headline stand shown by the two sides on the eve of their second Camp David conference is only a kind of tactical manoeuvre in an attempt each to obtain better terms in the treaty.

These manoeuvres, which cannot deceive anybody, take the form of each side insisting on his declared position to the extent that the Israeli Foreign Minister has said that Israel will not sign an agreement if it has to pull back from the West Bank, adding that the only solution is "to work out a formula by which the Arabs and Jews can co-exist in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

AL DUSTOUR asks whether it is true that four Iranian generals have been executed without knowledge of Dr. Bazargan's government. If reports on this matter, that have somewhat tarnished "the clean image of the Iranian revolution abroad" were correct, they make the Iranian provisional government duty-bound to bear its full responsibility of immediately applying justice in the conventional manner.

Any revolution, especially an Islamic one, does not justify any violation of the principle of giving fair trials to all, irrespective of any crimes they might have committed, the newspaper says.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION HEAD

ATTENDS MEETINGS IN TUNIS

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—President of the Civil Service Commission Dr. Mohammad Nouri Shafiq left for Tunis yesterday to take part in the general assembly meetings of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Science. During the five days of meetings starting today, the participants will be reviewing decisions and instructions passed at the meetings of the organisation's executive committee held in Tunis last month for developing Arab educational and cultural activities. Dr. Shafiq is accompanied by a two-man delegation.

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Iraqi team surveys tomato paste factory for joint venture

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 19—They cannot live without it. Their craving for it has led them to require it continually. Cost is no longer much of a consideration. They must have it daily at almost any price. To get it, they have even sent a team from their Iraqi government on a technical mission to try and squeeze it out of Jordan's factory.

Tomato paste, for reasons only God knows, has become the main staple, the most highly demanded consumer product, in Iraq, much as ketchup is to Americans, or pasta is to Italians or the fool bean is to Egyptians.

With their population at 12 million or more, Iraqis devour an average of 50,000 tons of tomato paste per year. Last year they gobbled up over 54,000 tons of the food stuff and their desire for it is growing. "They even use it as spread in sandwiches. They eat it like it is bread," Director of Information in the Ministry of

Industry and Commerce Tawfiq Batarseh told the Jordan Times today.

On the other hand, Jordan—with a population estimated at three million—requires no more than 2,500 tons of the tomato paste to be satisfied for the year.

So strong is the Iraqi's demand to quench their desire for the tomato extract that last week a commercial delegation from the Iraqi government's General Organisation for Food Stuff and Consumer Goods came to Jordan's tomato paste factory with a joint venture offer of nearly unlimited capital to expand the processing plant so it can also help provide for Iraq's needs.

The Iraqis are prepared to offer "any amount of money needed to expand the factory so they can absorb all the extra product. Whether it takes JD three million or JD 30 million, it doesn't matter," said Mr. Batarseh. "When you listen to these people it seems they'll do anything to get the tomato paste."

While here, the delegation collected information on the factory, crops, annual yield and farming techniques. They will study what they have learned and return to Jordan with plans for expanding the factory and the means to provide the capital necessary to carry out the project.

Their basic idea, which Jordan has initially approved, is to raise the output of the plant from its current 2,000 tons of tomato paste per year, to a 5,000-ton capability within 18 months and a 10,000-ton capability after two years, provided this larger amount doesn't upset Jordan's agricultural balance of crop yield.

In addition to this, the expansion will include facilities to make the factory a multi-produce processor. Instead of just tomatoes, the factory will be able to process and can other vegetables—peas, beans, carrots, etc.—according to the proposal.

But the priority is to boost the tomato paste output, a task Jordan can easily perform. The tomatoe season here lasts ten months, whereas Iraq has only a two month

season. And it is impossible for Jordanians to eat all their fresh tomatoes. What they can't eat, Iraq wants to buy and can, "at a reasonable rate."

For Jordan, such a joint venture proposition is an excellent opportunity. Without investing any capital, Jordan would be increasing its production of tomato paste for national consumption besides greatly adding other canned vegetables to the local market.

Expansion of the factory will also expand the profits from a current ten per cent to an expected 12 per cent or more, said Mr. Batarseh, although the Iraqis are not so concerned about recognising a big return on their investment.

And Iraq will be delighted to provide all the necessary capital to have a friendly source of tomato paste so close to home. Jordan is willing to sign such an agreement, said Mr. Batarseh, and so is Iraq, if a provision is included that it can buy all the tomato paste Jordan doesn't consume.

National News Roundup...

Arab central banks sub-committee to meet in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—A technical sub-committee formed by the governors of Arab central banks will hold a meeting here tomorrow to discuss ways of developing Arab financial and monetary markets and facilities for the transfer of capital among Arab states to help development projects in the Arab World. During the three-day meeting the sub-committee will also discuss establishing a system by which Arab states will be able to obtain loans from Arab financial markets instead of borrowing from European dollar markets.

Jordan to attend civil aviation meeting in Baghdad

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—Senior civil aviation officials from Syria, Iraq and Jordan are to hold a meeting in Baghdad tomorrow to review the work of a sub-committee supervising their civil aviation coordination in granting further facilities to air travel among them. The sub-committee is also entrusted with working out a unified air navigational system and the establishment of a unified air control unit for the three countries.

Postal training centre to be established

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—The Ministry of Communications today took practical steps towards establishing the first postal training centre in Jordan. Minister of Communications Dr. Sa'id Tal said. He told the Jordan News Agency that courses at the centre, which has been furnished with modern equipment for the purpose, will start by the middle of next month and will help promote the postal services in the country. According to Dr. Tal there will be two types of training programmes at the centre: one for those already employed by the Ministry of Communications and the other to qualify new candidates for jobs at different post offices throughout the country. Training at the centre will be a pre-requisite for candidates applying for jobs at the ministry from now on, the minister added.

Arab Wings flies daily to Tehran

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (J.T.)—An official spokesman of Arab Wings today denied reports that a company jet had been refused permission to land at Tehran airport on Saturday February 17.

"Arab Wings has been operating to Tehran since December last year on a daily basis with only rare exceptions. Since February 15, we have flown daily to Tehran," the spokesman said. "Special clearance for our flights to carry newsmen have been obtained from Mr. Sadek Kurob Zada, head of Iranian national radio and television in coordination with General Fairuzi, chief of operations at Tehran's Mehrabad airport," he added.

"Saturday, an Arab Wings Learjet was only 45 minutes out of Amman en route to Tehran when a Boeing 727 on a commercial flight was asked to turn back from Tehran. While radio communication between the captain of the 727 and the Iranian authorities was in progress, Arab Wings Captain Mike Rodis adopted a holding pattern to await the outcome. After the commercial airliner turned back, the Arab Wings jet returned to base at Amman to compensate for fuel lost during the delay, before continuing the flight to Tehran," the spokesman stated.

"Arab Wings did fly to Tehran on Saturday. The company is operating two flights today and has filed clearances for daily flights to Iran which have been approved by the authorities there," stressed the spokesman.

Princess Basma opens 6 branches of Haya Centre

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—Her Highness Princess Basma opened six new branches of the Haya Arts Centre over the past three days in Salt, Zarqa, Fuheis, Russeifah, and the Prince Hassan Quarter and Nazzal Quarter in Amman. The Haya Centre plans to open five more branches in Karak, Aqaba, Irbid, Swellah, and the Ashrafiah Quarter of Amman.

Arab Economic Unity Council committee to meet in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—A meeting of the technical committee of the Arab Economic Unity Council will begin here on Feb. 25. During its four-day meeting the committee will discuss programmes of the Arab statistical office of the Arab Economic Unity Council for 1979, as well as programmes for technical assistance for member countries, and the use of a unified Arab dinar in statistics that will be published by the council. Thirteen Arab countries will be represented at the meeting in addition to a number of specialised institutions and bodies and Arab development funds.

Jordan to attend Arab energy conference

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—Jordan will participate in the first Arab conference on energy which will open in Abu Dhabi on March 3. The agenda of the five-day meeting includes debate and discussion on energy issues in the Arab countries, working papers are expected to be put forward. Jordan will be represented at the conference by an official delegation headed by Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Nijimiddin Dajani and including officials from the Jordan Electricity Authority, Natural Resources Authority, the Royal Scientific Society, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Petroleum Refinery Company and the National Planning Council.

Clothes encounter



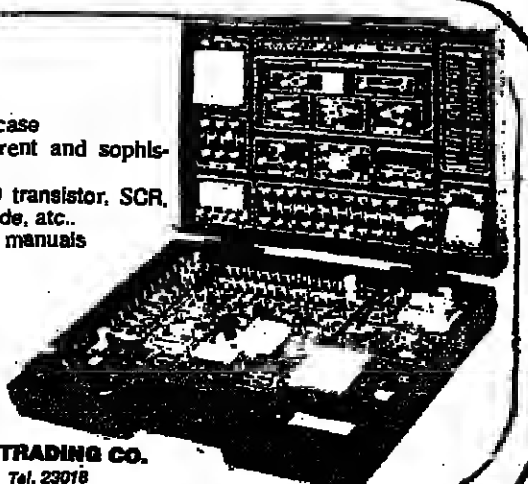
Sporting bold notices declaring such clean facts as "I wash 100 kgs daily" and "We are 16 years old...our replacement is still not approved" machines in the laundry room of the Jordan International Hotel were the objects of much interest last Saturday evening among some 80 guests milling around that grand place clutching cocktails even as the laundry staff pressed sheets and ironed

shirts. High-powered businessmen, diplomats and hotel guests wasted no time in getting stuck into the lashings of food provided at this, the second in a series of novelty parties hosted by Hotel General Manager Robert Moesker. The first one on Jan. 22 was staged in the hotel's kitchen and rumour has it that the next will be in no less unlikely a venue than the boiler room.

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Coming & Going

Princess Wijdan Ali returns from the U.S.

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—Princess Wijdan Ali returned here today after a three-week visit to the United States. During her stay Princess Wijdan visited the Middle East Institute in Washington where her oil paintings are on display.

Civil Aviation team visits Sharjah

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—A delegation from the Directorate of Civil Aviation left for Sharjah state in the Gulf yesterday to hold talks with officials there dealing with bilateral cooperation in the field of civil aviation. The delegation led by Civil Aviation Director General Sharif Ghazi Rakan will pay a similar visit to Kuwait at the end of the Sharjah talks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Documentary Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre has a documentary exhibition on display about Georges Sand. Open during regular hours.

Photo Exhibit

The Soviet Cultural Centre presents a photo display commemorating the sixty-first anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet armed forces.

Painting Exhibit

The British Council presents an exhibition of paintings and sculpture entitled "Portraits from the Jordanian Environment" by Sabahat Ortaç Rashdan. Open during regular hours.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents part I of a film by Peter Beauvais entitled "Deutschstunde" at 8:00 p.m. Part II will be shown tomorrow.

Soviet Army Day

The Soviet Cultural Centre celebrates the sixty-first anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet armed forces with a lecture-discussion given by the Military Attache of the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Amman, starting at 6:00 p.m. This will be followed by documentary films about the army and navy.

JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY

Village Development Project/ Stage II Invitation for Prequalification

The Jordan Valley Authority, an agency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, invites submission of prequalification data from U.S. contractors, Jordanian contractors and contractors from countries eligible under AID Geographic Code 941 or joint venture of projects of similar nature and type for the construction of about 30,102 square metres of schools, clinics and municipal buildings distributed throughout villages located along an 80 kilometre stretch of highway that traverses the length of the East Bank of the Jordan River Valley. Temperature in the valley ranges between 7 and 48 degrees Centigrade. Buildings shall consist of monolithic reinforced concrete foundations, columns and roof with 20 centimetre hollow concrete block walls. The project shall consist of the following buildings: 23 schools ranging from approximately 273 to 1480 square metres or approximately 20,475 square metres in total classroom space; 13 school administrative buildings of approximately 1131 square metres in total area; 13 school toilet facilities of approximately 676 square metres in total area; 4 health centres ranging from approximately 420 to 2250 square metres or approximately 3510 square metres in total space; and 3 municipal facilities with an approximate total area of 4310 square metres. Aggregate, water, cement and reinforcing steel are readily available.

Although it is not required that contractors visit the area, it might be to the advantage of contractors to acquaint themselves with local conditions. Plans and specifications are available for review by interested contractors in Amman, Jordan. The JVA will review qualifications of the contractors. The type of contract to be entered into will be stated in the bidding documents when issued to the prequalified contractors. The project, of which the above described buildings are a part, will be jointly financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Government of Jordan. The contractor to whom a contract may be awarded will be paid in U.S. dollars and Jordanian dinars. In submitting prequalification data, AID prequalification questionnaire for construction contractors (Attachment 2A CH2, HB 11 TM:11:1) must be filled out completely and submitted together with any brochures and additional information on experience and resources. In the event that a joint venture seeks prequalification the questionnaire must be supplied with respect to all firms in the joint venture. These forms are available from the JVA in Amman at USAID and from AID Washington. Completed prequalification data must be submitted to:

The President, Jordan Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2769, Amman, Jordan.
Telex: 1892 JVC JO; phone 41472

With a copy to:

Agency for International Development
NE/PD Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20523
Attn: Robert Fedel
Phone 202/632-1839

Prequalification data must be postmarked no later than 28 February. A short list of qualified contractors will be advised by the end of March 1979 as to whether and when they will be invited to submit bids. It is expected that the construction period will be 18 months.

Jordanian artist turns her back on modern art

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (J.T.)—The Jordanian artist Sabahat Ortaç has turned her back on modern art and is exhibiting a collection of paintings centered around the theme "Portraits from an Environment" at the National Consultative Council (NCC) today.

Mrs. Sabahat Ortaç, who is exhibiting a collection of paintings centered around the theme "Portraits from an Environment" at the NCC today, is a 35-year-old artist who has spent three years working with Prof. Bedri Rahmi Eyuboglu, a noted Turkish artist and poet.

She then married a Jordanian and, seven years ago, moved to Amman. She has since pursued her art independently. Her husband, an engineer, encourages her work and she has set up a studio in their home.

"I used to do modern art," she mentioned, "but found that many people are using modern art to hide their lack of talent. They produce things which are purely commercial and say nothing."

She feels modern techniques should be built on a base of experience in realistic art. She turned to the style of the romantic period. She says she now paints in the classical style although she has adopted some modern techniques and ideas about the use of colour. She uses rich colours liberally.

A unique aspect of her work is her painting schedule. "I sleep until 10 p.m. then start painting at around 2 a.m.," she said. "It's difficult to concentrate during the daytime with all the noise and confusion."

The exhibit officially opened Monday will be on view from Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Portrait of Jordanian woman, an oil painting by Sabahat Ortaç. Al Rashadan



Shepherd boy

Jordan and W. Germany discuss agricultural, transportation projects

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—The Vice Chairman of the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation Klaus Gaertner discussed here today with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Hassan Gharaybeh a number of subjects connected with West German participation in Jordanian agricultural projects.

Mr. Gaertner told Dr. Gharaybeh that his country will continue its cooperation to support such projects and other activities of the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Gaertner, who is also a member of the West German parliament, was accompanied to the meeting by the West German Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Horst Schmidt-Dornedden and West German agricultural specialists working at the ministry's different projects.

At a separate meeting with Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat, Mr. Gaertner reviewed cooperation between Jordan and West Germany in the field of transport including the Aqaba railway and the development of the Aqaba port projects.

Mr. Gaertner, who arrived here yesterday for a five-day visit to Jordan, will be meeting also with officials at the National Planning Council to review other projects carried out in cooperation with the West German government, particularly those affecting public health service and the development of the Jordan Valley region.

Pella receives its first batch of tourists

By Breda Finegan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—A Friends of Archaeology expedition to the site of Pella near the village of Tahatqat in the northern Jordan Valley on Sunday marked perhaps the first ever tourist group to visit what is sure to be a major attraction in coming years.

For the past two months a team of 20 Australian and three British archaeologists has been working on four main areas of the site under the supervision of Dr. Basil Hennessy of the University of Sydney.

The Friends of Archaeology trip, led by Dr. James Sauer, Director of the American Centre of Oriental Research, came just ten days before the present team is to end its work for this year leaving the next two months of excavations to an American group under the direction of Dr. Robert Smith of Worcester College, Ohio.

Although one of Dr. Hennessy's main provinces on this dig has been the excavation of tombs, he is heartily disappointed with results there so far. Every single one of the ten tombs they have opened was completely empty and Dr. Hennessy's hopes of finding any material in any of the hundreds of tombs around the site are small since he believes robbers have gotten to them all by now.

The most exciting work to date has been on the site of three temples situated on a hill commanding a spectacular view down a lush green valley opening into the wide, flat Jordan Valley. It is at this site that architect Gary Martin has found evidence indicating buildings, probably religious, from three distinct periods. The earliest of these was a late classical Roman temple on top of which was later built a Byzantine church which incorporated the cellar walls of the temple into its nave. One of the main indications of the church is the discovery of a Corinthian capital bearing the carving of a cross.

The unearthing of a large amount of pottery dating to the Ommayyad period leads Mr. Martin to believe the third building was of this time. No coins at all have been found in the temple area.

Interestingly enough the most recent occupation of the temple area is recorded as 1948. Apparently a shepherd built himself a stone house on what by anyone's standards would be an enviable site for a residence, only to be removed by the Department of Antiquities in order to preserve the site for future excavations.

One of the more interesting finds in this area is a hexagonal bath with what appears to be a leaden water pipe and drain. Also lots of roof tiling and two earlier floors—probably dating to the Byzantine or Ommayyad (upper) and Roman or Hellenistic (lower) periods—have been found.

All the stones uncovered so far which are of archaeological or architectural interest have been numbered and arranged at one side of the site.

Although it is still early to tell, the nearest parallel to what has been found in the temple area is on the site of Umm Qais in the north of Jordan where the columns are exactly the same size as those found at Pella.

The team has confined its work on this area of the site to the temple buildings but there is evidence of buildings all over the slope upon which the temples are situated. On a brief walk around the area one can spot columns peeping up through the new grass, all of which, Dr. Hennessy hopes, will eventually be rescued to go toward the complete reconstruction of the temple area.

Over on the other hill, work has also been carried out on what appears to have been a large Byzantine dwelling which was later converted—as indicated by

two blocked doorways—into two or three smaller dwellings in the Ommayyad period. Plans have been made to expose the whole area of the dwelling and, following surface clearance to the first floor, to carry out an aerial photo survey. Anthony McNicoll, lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology and overseeing work on this part of the dig, said.

From this dwelling Dr. Hennessy showed the visiting group two remarkable finds. One was a large bronze pot with a decorated standing edge and two handles. Suggestions from the visitors as to its use ranged from cooking pot to fruit bowl. Also shown was an intact delicate looking blue glass ball-shaped bottle, looking, as Dr. James Sauer, remarked, as good as if it was made yesterday.

Although Dr. Hennessy believes there is enough material to sustain excavations and reconstruction for the next 200 years, he seems confident that most of the important work can be completed within five to ten years.

Dr. Hennessy hopes Pella will reveal evidence of more or less continuous occupation from the Neolithic period right through to the Middle Ages providing the most complete historical sequence in Jordan. Even though no records have yet been turned up, he is still optimistic that the site will reveal a library of some sort, since it was important enough to have been mentioned in many ancient texts, including the Excerpta Texts of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (around the 19th century B.C.).

Just below the large Ommayyad dwelling three trenches are being cut into the side of the hill which have already revealed Mycenaean objects. Because of their situation on a steep slope it was not possible for the group to see these trenches at close quarters but they were quite content to potter around the grassy banks of the streams running along the bottom of the valley which are the ultimate reason for the settlement of the site in ages gone by.

Tests done by Dr. Hennessy show that the temperature of the water is constant at 73° F. The water comes from the earth at about twenty different points and has been flowing perennially since before the very first settlement of the site.

The current excavations are being financed jointly by the American and Australian teams whose work will be divided each year with the Australians doing the first two months of the year and the Americans continuing for the second two. Temperatures down there on Sunday—reaching a high of 25° C—make one think that maybe the Australians have the better deal! (For further information about the Friends of Archaeology contact: Geneva Rex tel: 44032.1)

NCC approves amended public health law

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (J.T.)—In a four-hour debate the National Consultative Council (NCC) today approved an amended public health law.

According to the amended law a higher committee chaired by the minister of health will be formed to fix the prices of medicines and charges of medical treatment at private clinics and hospitals as well as the fees of private dentists and laboratories.

The NCC also heard a reply from the minister of Public Works about the project for a vocational reformatory and rehabilitation centre and reasons for delaying its work until now. The project is to cost nearly JD 5.5 million.

During the debate Prime Minister Mudar Badran appealed to the NCC members to put a clear limit to debates and requests for clarification on draft bills and other topics referred to the council by the government.

The council referred to its

committees and to the government several suggestions and enquiries by its members. It will debate at a later date the government decision over the new fees for medical treatment in the public sector.

Prince Hassan receives envoy from Argentina

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (JNA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today received at the Royal Hashemite Court the Argentine non-resident Ambassador to Jordan Luis Raul Claraso De La Vega who handed the Crown Prince an invitation from the Argentine President to visit his country.

McElhiney to retire from UNRWA

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 19—Informed sources said today that Mr. Thomas McElhiney, Commissioner General for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), will retire in April, 1979.

In the meantime, negotiations are being held in Vienna between Mr. McElhiney and UNRWA employees' representatives who left Amman two weeks ago. Discussions centre on reimbursement of money deducted by UNRWA

from the salaries of the employees for work stoppages last year, withdrawal of the computability study, non-reduction of UNRWA rations for Palestine refugees and the bettering of employees' conditions.

The employees are protesting the proposed phasing out of their cost of living allowances to make their salaries become comparable to those of local government employees. They demand to be compared to other U.N. employees, not civil servants in the countries where they work. They are also protesting cuts in food rations and reductions in educational services to the refugees.

New British envoy due in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 19 (J.T.)—The new British ambassador designate to Jordan was due to arrive in Amman this evening.

Mr. Alan Bedford Urwick, who was born in 1930 and educated at Rugby and New College Oxford (where he took a first-class honours degree in Modern History) joined the foreign service in 1952. He served in Brussels and Moscow before learning Arabic at MECAS, the Foreign Office's language school at Shelem in Lebanon. He was then posted to Baghdad and Amman. He was

First Secretary, Head of Chancery and Consul here from 1965-1967. Subsequently he was posted to Washington and Cairo and spent two years on secondment to the Central Policy Review Staff (the government's "think tank") before taking up an appointment as head of Near East and North Africa Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1975. From 1977 until his present appointment he served as minister in Madrid.

Mr. Urwick is married and has three sons.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	3,793	6,550	6,560	6,550
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	2,583	—	14,500	14,350
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	3,542	1,020	1,030	1,030
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	300	1,980	—	2,000
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	1,261	—	1,000	0,970
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	845	1,320	1,330	1,320
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1,000	829	0,930	0,940	0,940
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co.	JD 5,000	465	4,650	4,750	4,650
Cairo-Amman Bank	JD 5,000	13,100	6,550	6,580	6,550
Jordan Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	49,417	—	—	9,700
The Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	730	0,720	0,730	0,730
Irbid District Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	70	0,650	0,750	0,700
Jordan Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	144	0,700	0,720	0,720

Total volume traded, Monday, Feb. 19: JD 76,879
Total number of shares traded: 15,434

	Par value	Volume traded	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
Government Development Bonds	JD 5,000	508	100	1982	5,080
	JD 5,000	301	60	1983	5,025
	JD 5,000	144	27	1984	5,360

Total volume traded: JD 953

TODAY'S WEATHER

will appear gradually while another decrease in temperature will occur. There will be westerly moderate to fresh winds. Have dusty weather, northerly moderate winds and light seas.

Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
7	13
13	23
12	22
6	15

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The London Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1904, reaches its 75th anniversary this year with a reputation for musical standards which has never been higher. One of Britain's most travelled bands, it has given pleasure to music lovers in many countries.

By Edward Greenfield

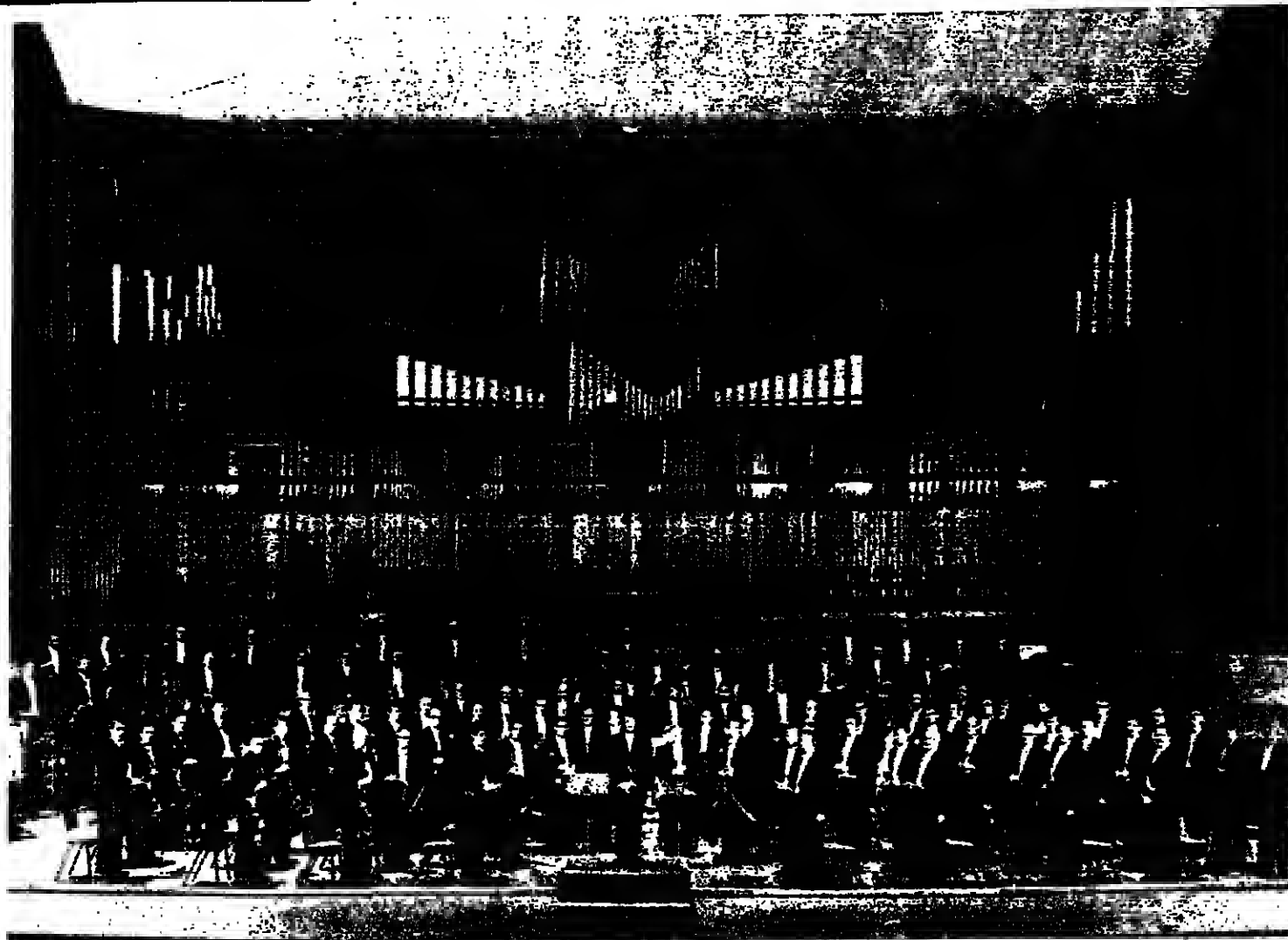
In June this year the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) celebrates its 75th birthday with a concert to be conducted by Andre Previn, its principal conductor for the last 12 years. By a substantial margin it is the oldest of London's five full time orchestras, and over most of those 75 years it has been marked out by its enterprise.

It is extraordinary to think that in 1904 Britain had only one full time orchestra -- and that in Bourneville, a seaside resort on the south coast. The London Symphony Orchestra owed its foundation to a group of players who resisted the attempts of Sir Henry Wood to instil better discipline in the Queen's Hall Orchestra (a part time band) by abolishing the deputy system where a player sent a substitute musician to deputise for him at certain rehearsals or concerts. The players disliked the idea of being tied to one orchestra and having to refuse lucrative outside work -- so they decided to form their own self governing orchestra.

Ironically, the direct result was that the LSO players (in Britain the orchestra is regularly referred to by its initials) became extremely loyal to their own orchestra. Very quickly, under great international conductors such as Hans Richter and Arthur Nikisch (both of them successively principal conductors of the LSO), it established musical standards till then unknown in Britain.

From the start it was an adventurous band. Within two years of its foundation the LSO visited Paris, and in 1912 it was the first British orchestra ever to go to America, playing in the United States and Canada under Nikisch. Originally the LSO was booked to sail across the Atlantic on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, but happily the date of the tour was advanced and the players travelled by an earlier ship.

It was under Nikisch, too, that the orchestra made its first recordings. During the years between the two world wars it established a reputation as one of the world's leading recording orchestras, not least under the baton of the greatest British composer of the time,



The London Symphony Orchestra which celebrates its 75th anniversary in June.

Sir Edward Elgar. One of Elgar's close friends was W.H. Reed, for many years leader of the LSO. Though the composer gave up his appointment as principal conductor after only a single season, he kept a close relationship with the players.

After Richter and Nikisch came Sir Hamilton Harty and Willem Mengelberg as principal conductors. But then, as now, the LSO, like most other London orchestras, believed that the principal conductor's role should not be an exclusive one. Working with different conductors is something which British orchestral players prefer. But there are dangers, and in the late 1940s, in the difficult period after the Second World

War, the orchestra faced a serious deterioration of standards.

With competition from such new rivals as Sir Thomas Beecham's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Walter Legge's Philharmonia--the orchestra which was specially associated with Klemperer and Karajan--the LSO, with an aging membership, looked as though it could never recover its former glory. But thanks in part to the work of Josef Krips as principal conductor, and more particularly to the active determination of a band of young players new to the orchestra, standards were vigorously revived.

By 1960 when Pierre Monteux, already 86, was asked to be principal conductor, the LSO was fast

establishing its claim to be the leading London orchestra once more. The example of Monteux was electrifying. He directed Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" in the presence of the composer exactly 50 years after he had directed its rowdy premiere in Paris. And always, whether on record or in the concert hall, Monteux drew from the LSO players a sound new to Britain, with fresh incisive string tone.

It was sometimes said that the LSO was becoming much closer to an American orchestra in its sound. That process of sharpening the focus was encouraged by the new principal conductor, the young Hungarian Istvan Kertesz. But Kertesz's other commitments

got in the way of his work with the LSO, and in 1967 the orchestra, still enterprising, made another adventurous choice of principal conductor. This was Andre Previn, a musician with whom members had come to enjoy themselves working in the recording studio.

Over his 12 years with the LSO Previn has brought the orchestra to the widest public, regularly conducting in television concerts which counted audiences in millions. The process of international touring, too, has been greatly expanded with regular visits to the United States and a sequence of world tours with concerts given in the Soviet Union, Japan and many other countries.

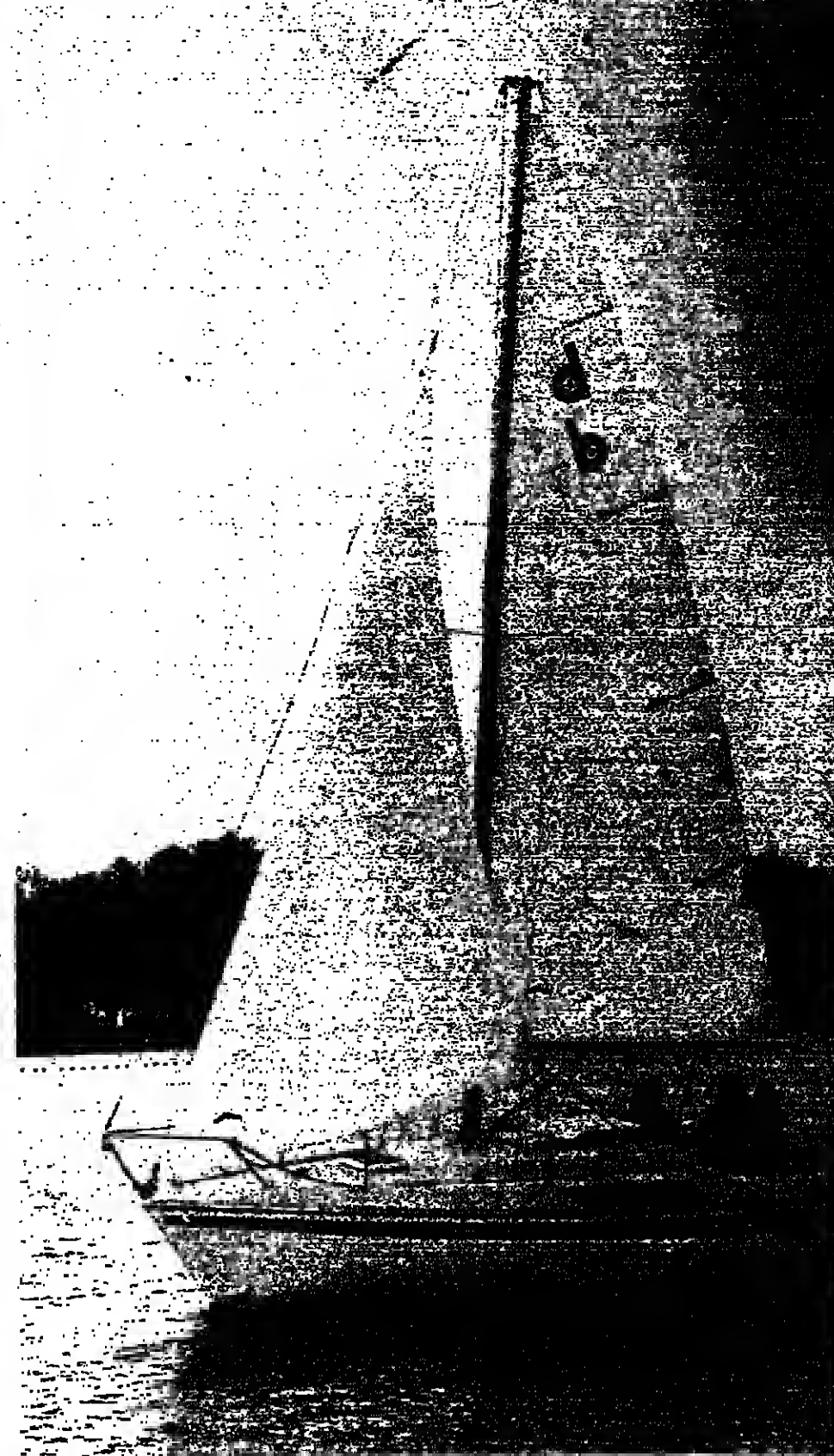
In 1971 the LSO was the first British orchestra to appear at the Salzburg Festival, and it was on that visit that it first began its association with the veteran conductor Karl Bohm, a musical love affair at first sight, as everyone recognised. In 1977 Bohm became the first "working" president of the orchestra in succession to Sir Arthur Bliss.

Now, following the 75th anniversary Andre Previn--who is also musical director of the Pittsburgh Symphony in the United States--becomes conductor emeritus, and another of the orchestra's favourite conductors, Claudio Abbado, takes over as principal.

Seeing him at work rehearsing the LSO, using as few words as possible, insisting on rigorous standards but with the minimum of time wasted, helps to explain why under Abbado's baton the orchestra has produced so many fine performances.

Though the league table of London orchestras never stays precisely fixed for many years at a time, and competition grows keener every year, the London Symphony Orchestra's claim to be top of the list is as strong as ever.

Sailing stays popular but industry falters



Jeanneau, the leading French boat builder, produces 5,500 boats a year.

Like tennis yesterday and golf today, pleasure-boating and yachting has become a popular activity for almost everyone. This is very evident from the success of the 18th "Salon International de la Navigation de plaisance", the Paris pleasure-boat show, which took place for ten days last month, attracting 300,000 visitors to look at the 1,300 boats which were exhibited on the 650 stands. One can certainly talk of popular sport since more than two million French men and women practise sailing in one form or another and there are 500,000 boats--37 per cent with sails and 63 per cent with engines. Another interesting figure: 80% of registered boats are small ones of less than 5.50 metres each. But behind these figures, behind this passion for the sea, there is a whole industry--an industry which has considerable economic weight. Boat-builders, manufacturers of fittings and boat equipment, importers and distributors--there are 12,000 salaried workers in the trade, in some 2,000 firms of all sizes. Their overall turnover figure is more than two thousand million francs.

Alone, the 180 builders achieved a turnover figure of 775 million francs in 1977. In addition, these French builders also export a market worth 243 million francs in 1977 against 182 million for imports. This places France third in the world for exports, behind the United States and Finland. The fact that Mr. Jean-Francois Deniau, the Minister for external trade, opened the pleasure-boat show this year was significant in this respect. However, things have not always been easy for the French boat builders recently. Whenever the country faces a new economic problem, it is the investments in sporting material that suffer first. And foreign competition becomes fiercer each year. And then there are the changing tastes of the marine enthusiasts, of whom 19 per cent are from the management classes or liberal professions and 63 per cent are lower-paid managerial staff, office employees and workers. The builders have to be accurate in sensing which way the wind of popular taste is blowing, and not bring out too many of the "wrong" models. What are the most popular boats today? The small crafters,

facing keen competition from sail-boats, are mainly "Micro" boats. On the other hand, big success for the sail-boats of 5 to 10 metres, which enable a family camping holiday from the next. There was demand in the show for "Micro" boats--sailboats of 5.50 metres displacement and of very compact (20,000 to 30,000) such "Micro" boats, distributed by the "Vice", has just been the year? A graver problem is the difference between of boats manufactured number of berths and holiday ports and one builder: "With 1,000 boats per year, like Grande-Motte by year." The leading constructor, Jeanneau 5,500 boats per year--Beneteau 3,000--Zodiac 4,500. A solution to the problem will surely be found, such as imports or sales where the dry-docked.



Claudio Abbado who is to take over from Andre Previn as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra.

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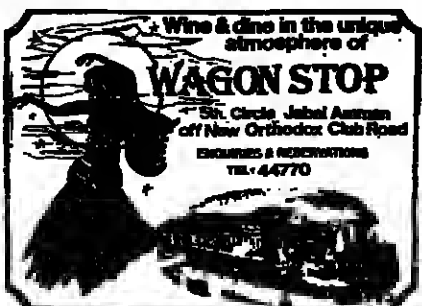
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مكتبة ابن رشد



W. Germany's nuclear fire brigade is robot-ready

It's action stations for West Germany's nuclear fire brigade when these robots are sent into nuclear power station for an emergency exercise. In this test, the main coolant system was assumed to be out of order and the emergency system working at only 25 per cent capacity. An accident of this sort has yet to happen at any of the world's nuclear power stations, but the possibility cannot be dismissed. The civil defence corps went into action, ready to mastermind evacuation and medical care programmes. (Dad photo)

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GALEE
PLONY
NACTAV
RUMATE



WHAT THE CROOK WAS "INCLINED" TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ON THE (Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: LYING CHALK SYSTEM BEADLE
Answer: They help a woman's standing! — LEGS

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



Would you please pass whatever—that is you're trying to hide?

THE Daily Crossword by Ann V. Jenkins

ACROSS

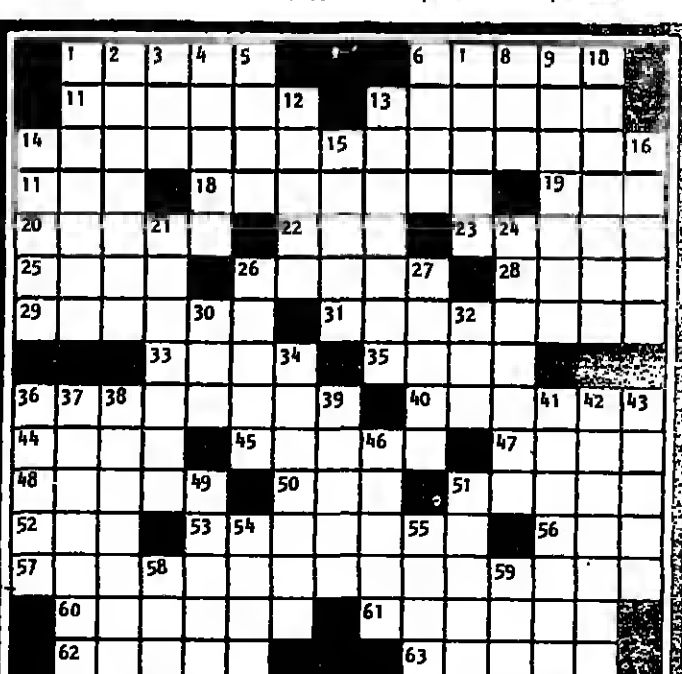
- 1 Firm and fresh
- 6 Packaged
- 11 Lessee
- 13 Easy
- 14 Make merry
- 17 Soul: Fr.
- 18 Ardent fan
- 19 Contend for superiority
- 20 Reward or punish
- 22 Superlative suffix
- 23 Feudal drudge
- 25 Welcome and place
- 26 Cornered

DOWN

- 2 Relative of a via
- 29 Rajinder
- 31 Oil men
- 33 Jeer at
- 35 Away with you!
- 36 Raced at full speed
- 40 Publisher's aide
- 44 Smell—(suspect)
- 45 Sam or J.C.
- 47 Ibsen heroine
- 48 Cupolas
- 50 Label, in prescriptions
- 51 Farming: abbr.
- 52 Metric measure
- 53 Certain refugees
- 56 Caviar ingredient
- 57 Beat it!
- 60 Auburn colored
- 61 Forevar, to poets
- 62 Concerning, old style
- 63 Aides: abbr.
- 14 Fate, to Hindus
- 15 Sniffed about
- 16 Vaticinators
- 21 — as a sheet (chalky)
- 24 Like a catchy tune
- 25 Jogs along
- 27 Cubed
- 30 Long time
- 32 Young blade
- 34 Mental stress
- 36 Cairo hero
- 37 Divided by a quota
- 38 Baking dish
- 39 Condescend
- 41 Rush of water
- 42 Starlings' kin
- 43 Contests at Ascot
- 46 Jibe
- 48 Begin
- 51 Sackcloth and—
- 54 Fosse
- 55 This: Sp.
- 58 Turnover, in golf
- 59 Vocal pauses

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1/5/77



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Daily Horoscope not received

GOREN BRIDGE

CHARLES H. GOREN
OMAR SHARIF
by Chicago Tribune

South, vulnerable.

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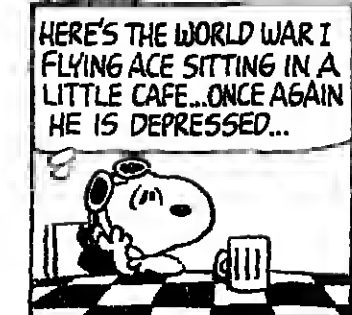
South, vulnerable.

North

South, vulnerable.

North

Peanuts



HERE'S THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE SITTING IN A LITTLE CAFE...ONCE AGAIN HE IS DEPRESSED...



HIS LEAVE IS OVER, AND HE HAS FAILED TO MEET THE CHARMING FRENCH LASS...



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Andy Capp



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CHANNEL 3:

- 5:30 Quran
- 5:45 Cartoons
- 6:00 Children's programme
- 6:30 Sandhu
- 7:10 Return to Peyton Place
- 8:00 News in Arabic
- 8:30 Arabic Series
- 9:00 Arabic programme
- 10:15 Dallas
- 11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 4:

- 6:30 French programme
- 7:00 News in French
- 7:30 News in Hebrew
- 8:30 Comedy
- 9:10 The Charlie Line
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on

- 7:01 Morning show
- 7:30 News Bulletin
- 7:40 Morning show
- 10:00 News headlines
- 10:03 Morning show
- 10:30 Pages and Pages
- 11:00 Sign off
- 12:00 Sign on and news headlines
- 12:03 Radiotheque
- 13:00 News summary
- 13:03 Radiotheque

14:00 News bulletin

- 14:10 Music
- 14:30 In Concert
- 15:00 Concert hour
- 16:00 News summary
- 16:45 Easy listening
- 16:50 Old favourites
- 17:00 Country music
- 18:00 News Summary
- 18:03 Play of the week
- 19:00 News bulletin
- 19:10 News Reports
- 19:30 Signing off

BBC RADIO

GMT

- 04:00 Newstalk
- 04:30 Nature Notebook
- 04:45 Financial News: Reflections
- 05:00 News: 24 Hours
- 05:30 Sarah Ward
- 05:45 World Today
- 06:00 Newstalk
- 06:30 Off the Record
- 07:00 News: 24 Hours
- 07:30 Sarah Ward
- 07:45 Network U.K.
- 08:00 News: Reflections
- 09:00 News: Press Review
- 09:15 World Today
- 09:30 Financial News
- 09:40 Look Ahead
- 09:45 Tony Myster Request
- 10:15 Take One
- 10:30 Sports International
- 11:00 News: News about Britain
- 11:15 Letter from London
- 11:25 Scotland this Week
- 11:30 Take It or Leave It
- 11:40 Radio Newsweek
- 12:15 John Peel
- 12:45 Sports Round-up
- 13:00 News: 24 hours
- 13:30 Network U.K.
- 14:15 The Alan Price Story

14:30 Talkabout

- 15:00 Radio Newsweek
- 15:15 Outlook
- 16:00 News: Commentary
- 16:15 Claudio Aram
- 16:45 World Today
- 17:00 News
- 17:09 Scotland this Week
- 17:15 Thirty Minute Theatre
- 17:45 Sports Round-up
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- 18:30 The Farming World
- 19:00 Outlook: News Summary
- 19:30 Stock Market
- 19:45 Classical Record Review
- 20:00 News: 24 Hours
- 20:30 Dear Me
- 21:00 World Radio Club
- 21:15 The Planners' Years
- 22:00 News: World Today
- 22:15 Financial News
- 22:35 Scotland this Week: Reflections
- 22:45 Sports Round-up
- 23:00 News: Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

- 03:30 The Breakfast Show
- 06:30 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions
- 17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses
- 17:30 Deadline
- 18:00 Special English: news, feature "The Making of Mutt"
- 18:30 Now Meet USA

19:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses

- 19:30 VOA Magazine: Americana, science, culture, letters
- 20:00 Special English: news
- 20:15 Meet USA (Jazz)
- 21:00 VOA World Report
- 22:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media commentaries, analyses.

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:

6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ/GF)

- 11:30 Kuwait
- 12:40 Riyadh (SOT)
- 13:30 New York
- 15:30 Cairo
- 17:30 Madrid, Athens
- 17:45 Copenhagen Vienna
- 18:00 London, Paris
- 18:15 Rome
- 18:20 Cairo (EA)
- 18:25 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
- 19:00 Beirut (MEA)
- 19:00 Baghdad (IA)
- 19:15 Frankfurt
- 21:15 Damascus
- 23:30 Cairo

DEPARTURES:

7:40 Damascus, London (BA)

- 8:45 Beirut (MEA)
- 9:00 Frankfurt
- 9:30 Rome
- 10:00 Cairo
- 11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
- 12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
- 13:00 Riyadh, Doha (SDI)
- 17:00 Cairo
- 17:15 Damascus
- 17:25 Cairo (EA)
- 20:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ/GF)
- 20:15 Baghdad (IA)
- 21:00 Jeddah
- 22:30 Kuwait, Doha
- 23:50 Doha, Moscow (RJ/GF)
- 23:59 Bahrain, Bangkok (RJ/GF)

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- Radio, English Section
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- Fire headquarters

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- Bulgarian Cultural Centre
- British Cultural Centre
- Deutsche Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre
- French Cultural Centre
- Kabbani Theatre
- National Museum
- Soviet Cultural Centre
- Spanish Cultural Centre
- Ukrainian Art Gallery
- Zahran Cultural Library
- West German Cultural Institute

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

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- Fire headquarters
- Information
- Municipal water service
- Time (in Arabic)

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Rhodesia reports cross-border raid into Mozambique

SALISBURY, Feb. 19 (R)—Rhodesian warplanes struck into neighbouring Mozambique today at a Patriotic Front guerrilla storage complex, military headquarters announced. The attack, in the Chimoi region, was against the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) of Patriotic Front joint-leader Robert Mugabe, a communique said. "No damage was incurred by any other buildings or property outside the complex, it said.

It was the second cross-border raid reported by Rhodesian planes in the past two days. On Saturday the military command said jets had bombed Patriotic Front bases in southern Zambia.

A military spokesman on Saturday said the air raids into Zambia had been aimed at smashing a build-up of guerrillas of the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) of Mr. Mugabe's ally, Joshua Nkomo.

Forces were prepared near Livingstone to cross the Zambezi River border into Rhodesia, he said.

A spokesman today denied reports from Lusaka that further bombing attacks on guerrilla bases had taken place inside Zambia yesterday.

Rhodesians had been awaiting large-scale retaliation against ZIPRA forces following the crash of an Air Rhodesia Viscount air-

liner last Monday. ZIPRA claimed to have shot down the plane killing all 59 people on board.

But military sources said Saturday's attack was not retaliation, merely part of a continuing operation against Patriotic Front forces in Zambia and Mozambique who had pledged to smash planned one-man, one-vote election here next April.

The last Rhodesian attacks into Mozambique reported by the Salisbury authorities took place early in December. Some camps of the Mozambique regular army, were also attacked in those raids because Rhodesian guerrillas or their weapons were there, the military said.

The latest raids were seen in Salisbury as showing the bi-racial transitional government's determination to proceed with planned elections next April.

Military commander Lieutenant-General Peter Walls said last Friday Rhodesian forces would act outside as well as inside the country to ensure the elections take place.



A Black Forest tradition for 500 years

Hedwig Kaltenbach from Gutach in the Black Forest region of West Germany is one of few remaining makers of these striking traditional hats, which come in red for the fraulein and black for the frau, and have been worn by Black Forest women for at least 500 years. They are still worn on festive occasions and Frau Kaltenbach says orders have come

in from as far afield as America and Japan. Each hat contains two kilograms of wool, takes her a week to make and cost DM 300 or so. She has four daughters of her own and is gratified that young people are showing renewed interest in traditional costumes. (Dad photo)

Zia: Bhutto's fate will be collective decision

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 19 (R)—Pakistan's military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said in an interview released here yesterday that he would not decide for himself on the fate of condemned ex-premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto but would let the country's military and civilian leadership rule collectively on any appeal.

President Zia told the American CBS television network that technically he would have the final decision if the Supreme Court rejects a petition against the death penalty imposed on Mr. Bhutto for organising a political assassination four years ago.

But he said that if Mr. Bhutto, a member of his family or anyone in Pakistan appeals on his behalf, he would not keep the prerogative to himself, but would place it before a panel of the entire military hierarchy and the military-led cabinet.

"Let the cabinet decide, if and when the appeal comes, whether it should be accepted or rejected," he said it would decide by a majority decision.

The Supreme Court is due to discuss a defence petition next Saturday against its 4-3 decision upholding the death sentence imposed for an ambush on politician Ahmed Raza Kasuri. Mr. Kasuri escaped but his father was fatally wounded.

Mr. Bhutto has said he would not lodge a clemency appeal with General Zia, who overthrew him in a coup in mid-1977. He has also forbidden his family to appeal on his behalf. But General Zia said he had already received a couple of appeals, without giving details.

General Zia's latest pronouncement could indicate a softening of his attitude towards the ex-premier's execution. He had said previously that he would carry out the verdict of the Supreme Court.

General Zia also told CBS that he has extended his term as army chief of staff, which he was due to relinquish next week. He said he should retire on Feb 28 but had extended his term because of his political role and the role of the army in running the country.

"I have given myself an extension until such time as we hold the elections and the new political party selects the new chief of army staff," he said.

OPEC reportedly plans meet to study Iran's oil stoppage

BAHRAIN, Feb. 19 (R)—Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet next month to study ways of coping with the aftermath of the Iranian oil stoppage, a well-informed oil industry journal said today.

The journal, Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said the consultative meeting to be

held in either London or Geneva on March 26, would not deal with oil prices. This is apparently in deference to Saudi Arabia which opposes reopening the price issue at present.

In Kuwait, visiting Venezuelan Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta today called for an emergency OPEC meeting to tackle problems caused by the stoppage of Iranian oil exports.

Mr. Hernandez, whose country is the world's third-biggest oil exporter and a leading OPEC member, was speaking to reporters following talks with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah.

He said an OPEC ministerial meeting was needed to deal with what he called confusion in the world's oil markets following the stoppage of Iranian exports. It was the responsibility of OPEC states to avoid further complications, he added.

Mr. Hernandez also said OPEC members should cooperate to prevent oil firms from exploiting the present situation for profit.

Iran, the world's second largest

oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, has not exported any oil since Dec. 27. Exports had averaged five million barrels a day before being stopped by political disorders.

Saudi Arabia has temporarily allowed the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco) to increase output by one million barrels above the 8.5 million barrels ceiling to partly offset the loss of the Iranian crude. But the Iranian situation has affected the world oil price structure.

Last week Abu Dhabi and Qatar raised the premium on their quality crude by about a dollar. MEES said Iraq had told its customers to come to Baghdad within the next two weeks for contract price negotiations, and African exporters—Algeria, Libya and Nigeria—were coordinating similar moves.

Saudi Arabia alone was powerless to curb price action by individual exporters in a tight market. MEES said.

New Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan was reported at the weekend to have said that Iran would soon resume oil exports.

World News Briefs

Sudan, Sierra Leone differences unresolved

KHARTOUM, Feb. 19 (R)—Sudanese President Nimeiri returned to Khartoum last night from Sierra Leone where he had unsuccessful talks with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam. The differences between the two countries, a Sierra Leone government statement yesterday said the two leaders had failed to agree on a joint communique on three days of talks sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) mediation committee. The Sudanese State Minister in the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Francis Deng, said the Sudanese Agency the Ethiopian side had denied the existence of an Eritrean question, which he said was the root of the differences between the two countries. Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have worsened over Addis Ababa charges that Sudan is aiding Eritrean rebels fighting for independence in northern Ethiopia.

Japan cancels planned rice loan to Vietnam

TOKYO, Feb. 19 (R)—Japan has dropped a plan to give Vietnam an emergency rice loan following the overthrow of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea (Cambodia) by Hanoi-backed forces, the Japanese Ministry said today. The government was carefully assessing the situation in northern Vietnam, where Chinese and Vietnamese forces are fighting, before deciding whether to freeze economic aid, it said. Japan had pledged to make Vietnam a long-term loan of 150,000 tonnes of rice during the financial year ending next April after severe flooding along the Mekong River. No rice has been sent to date but Japan has so far this financial year given Vietnam medicine and insecticide worth \$500,000, the ministry said. The Minister Sumo Sonoda told the Diet (parliament) that Japan would not support a country which stationed forces in another country to intervene in that nation's internal affairs. Foreign Ministry officials said today Japan's trade and economic relations with China and Vietnam could be impaired if fighting along their joint border continued for some time.

Unqualified professionals on the loose?

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 19 (R)—Hundreds of unqualified Italian doctors practising medicine, dentistry and other professions under diplomas issued by a forger arrested on Saturday, police here said. Investigators who detained the self-styled doctor, an engineer, lawyer, nobleman, knight, public official, commander of the Italian Republic's Order of Merit, and a list of nearly 2,000 clients to whom he had supplied false diplomas since 1958. The first name checked was of a respected Milanese with two successful surgeries, hundreds of satisfied clients, investigations are continuing and have already turned up another practising for ten years on a diploma from the ancient Ecclesiastical University of London.

Swiss referendum shows widespread concern in nuclear plant dangers

BERNE, Feb. 19 (R)—Switzerland's nuclear energy industry today appeared headed for more stringent government supervision after a citizens referendum narrowly rejected an effective halt to its expansion plans.

A national referendum with an above-average turnout of nearly half the country's 3.8 million electors showed citizens almost equally divided for or against stricter controls on existing and planned nuclear power stations and other atomic installations.

A proposal that would have laid down safety and environmental conditions for granting 25-year operating concessions and subjected four existing plants to retroactive parliamentary approval failed by only 45,348 votes.

Voting was 919,923 in favour and 965,271 against in the weekend poll. Because it would have amended the constitution, the proposal also needed support from a majority of the 26 cantons, but they voted 14 against.

The environmentalists, which had forced the referendum, argued that nuclear power was too dangerous and that the government should take action to prevent nuclear accidents. They also argued that the government should take action to prevent nuclear accidents.

Sri Lanka is taking a calculated risk with its first free trade zone. Either will release the country's pent-up energies and catapult Sri Lanka into real economic growth, or it boomerang if the energies go in wrong direction.

The export zone.

Labour, which is highly politicised in rival unions, may pose problems too. At the moment there are no signs of unrest as the government is still basking in its massive election victory of November 1977. An attempt by leftist unions to call a general strike in November was quashed by the government outlawing it as "political"—political strikes are banned—and threatening dismissal to anyone who took part. The strike flopped.

Still, the government's ability to make the unions knuckle under may wane with its popularity. Mrs. Bandaranaike's attempts to break loose from her "people's socialism" were frustrated by running battles with the Marxist unions, and Sri Lanka is a place where ideas of democracy and free expression are valued.

Beyond this is the important question whether the export free zone will serve as the intended catalyst to release the skills and energies of Sri Lankans or whether it will merely accentuate the divisions between rich and poor and help set off a political revolution.

The figures estimated by the government for the benefit to employment and export earnings from the zone are higher than

Sri Lanka's free zone: Catapult or boomerang?

By Kevin Rafferty

Work on Sri Lanka's first free trade zone is going ahead with such speed that even cynics have been surprised and impressed. The first couple of factories will open soon. Then the real tests will come and it will be seen whether the zone propels Sri Lanka into becoming the Singapore of South Asia or whether it turns out to be merely another testament to the bureaucratic skill of South Asians to ensnare and entangle any promising project.

At the moment, in spite of the booming interest, there are more questions than answers about the zone.

According to Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Sri Lanka's finance minister, in his budget speech late last year the whole project is proving a big success. There had been 118 specific inquiries leading to applications by the end of October and 46 projects involving total capital investment of more than \$100 million had been approved.

Projects approved include a variety of products such as garments, building materials, industrial chemicals, sailing craft, glass making and fishing gear. The greater part of the capital is foreign and there is a wide geographical spread of foreign collaborators from the U.S., U.K., West Germany, France, Switzerland, Norway, Dubai, Iran, India, Thailand,

Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea.

The government has worked hard to make sure that applications are processed quickly and 24 concerns have already signed formal agreements with the Greater Colombo Economic Commission which administers the 500-acre site at Katunayake, close to the international airport.

Missions have been sent to broadcast the appeal of Sri Lanka's new policy abroad. As proof of how much has changed since President J.R. Jayawardene took over in November 1977, the missions have included foreigners who previously cursed the dead hand of Sri Lanka's so-called "people's socialism" practised under Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. "The government is really trying to get a move on and put this place together," said one of the new foreign enthusiasts.

There are indeed many sensible reasons for setting up a free trade zone. Though it is one of the poorer developing countries, Sri Lanka has an educated population (literacy is in excess of 90 per cent) and one of the first things a visitor to the lush, green country villages will be asked by bright-eyed children is if he has any "school-pens" to give away.

For years the country's potential has been unfulfilled and unemployment is high, with more than 1.25 million out of work and

125,000 new entrants to the 5.5 million job market every year.

All this means that wage rates are low even by the standards of Asia. A skilled worker will get about \$1.25 a day—which means that labour costs about half of what it does in India and only a fifth of rates in Singapore.

What the Jayawardene government is trying to do is to release these skills and energies which have remained pent-up for years. It is spending \$20 million on developing the site and promises that there will be international direct dialling telecommunications installed this year.

Investors are promised freedom from import duty on equipment and from export duty on the products, tax holidays of from five to seven years and low rates of turnover tax when the holiday has expired. The government has said it will consider additional concessions where substantial capital or new technology is coming to the country.

So much for the good news.... So far the investors have been dominated by garment makers who see a good opportunity to export from Sri Lanka to both the European Economic Community, where the island's textile quotas have not been used up, and to the U.S., with which Sri Lanka has no quotas. With 20 textile manufacturers already on the lists,

some of them too obviously having exhausted their quotas from their home bases of India and South East Asia, the government has banned any more garment makers from coming to the zone.

This ban may slow the pace of applications. In addition, if there is a boom in textile exports from Sri Lanka to the industrialised world, the island may find itself facing curbs. Given that the textile makers expect to recover their investments within two years, any such restrictions would hurt the island more than the foreign investors, who could fly away unhindered. One official said: "That is a risk we have to take. We have to start somewhere."

Even the optimistic foreign businessmen have their doubts about whether the port facilities at Colombo are adequate to cope with the flow of materials which a successful export zone would imply. The port itself is liable to become quickly choked and the roads to the zone are narrow and winding and usually cluttered with a mixture of battered cars and taxis, bullock carts and small trucks.

It might have been better to instal new deepwater wharves at Negombo, close to the Katanayake zone. But the government sees such a plan as a second stage, perhaps fearing the extra cost. Mr. de Mel has said that Negombo will be developed as a town to service

Bangladesh's ruling party comes out on top in elections

DACCA, Feb. 19 (R)—President Ziaur Rahman's Bangladesh National Party (BNP) today swept to victory in the Bangladesh parliamentary elections and was expected to secure a two-thirds majority in the new 300-seat parliament.

The dapper 44-year-old General Ziaur came to power in a military coup in 1975 and Bangladesh, one of the poorest nations in the world, has been under martial law ever since.

After two days of voting the election results started coming in last night and by late today General Ziaur's party had passed the vital 150-seat mark. The BNP is expected to take 200 of the 300 seats.

General Ziaur arranged for 30 seats to be reserved for women candidates without contest and this apparently succeeded in winning women voters. Women have been traditionally kept out of public life in this Moslem country. The election lacked the usual

fervour associated with Bengali politics, largely because the country has been under martial law for three-and-a-half years and people are only now becoming accustomed once more to free speech.

General Ziaur, who retains ultimate executive power as president, has promised to lift martial law and to allow normal democratic processes to take place.

But he has not said he will give up the command of the military which will remain the real force here, and he will have the power to down martial law again if he feels this necessary.

Out of the mass of 30 opposition parties, the Awami League faction of former Bangladesh leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did best in the elections, collecting 27 seats, with about 80 seats still to be declared. Sheikh Mujibur was killed in the 1975 coup, but his spirit still seems to stalk the land and his pictures were prominently used in the Awami League campaigning.

Phosphate-rich 'speck in the sea'

Natives of Ocean Island press for independence from Britain

LONDON, Feb. 19 (AP)—A kind of guerrilla warfare, with fire bombs and sabotage, has broken out where you'd least expect it: on a palm-shaded atoll in the south seas.

Some of the Banaban people from tiny, British-ruled Ocean Island in the southwest Pacific reported in London Sunday night that two of their leaders are in jail for attacking British mining installations with gasoline bombs.

They said eight persons altogether are held and warned the sabotage will continue so long as Britain continues to deny independence for their homeland.

The threat came as the House of Lords was to debate today another stage in a bill to give independence to the Gilbert Islands, which include phosphate-rich Ocean Island, a two-square-mile speck in the sea.

"With independence for the Gilbert Islands due in July without our homeland being separated from the colony to which it was arbitrarily joined by Britain, the government has forced us into an unbearable situation," said the Rev. Tobias Tawaka, chairman of the Banabans' Council of Leaders.

Rev. Tawaka, who referred to his island as Banaba, is in London to lobby British lawmakers in the long campaign by his people for independence.

He said his people are law-abiding by nature, but after ten years of patiently asking Britain for the return of their island and self-rule they saw no alternative to taking action.

"The whole Banaban race is fully behind the Council of Leaders and jailings will not discourage us. We will press on for our independence regardless of the consequences," he said.

Britain annexed Ocean Island in 1900. Unlike the rest of the colony it has great commercial value. Its phosphate exports are worth more than \$5 million a year, compared to less than \$1 million for the copra, the dried "meat" of coconuts, which is the only export of the 32 other islands.

Ocean Island is some 250 miles west of the Gilberts main group and the Banabans say they can support themselves, if they control their mineral wealth.

Most of the 3,100 Banabans were moved by Britain to Fiji in 1945 after their homes were made untenable because of the mining. They have waged a long fight in the British courts to return.

British supporters of their case include conservative lawmaker Sir Bernard Braine, who says he hopes parliament will do justice to the Banabans in this "long, sordid story."

Argument has dragged on for

Portuguese president to visit former African colony Guinea-Bissau

LISBON, Feb. 19 (R)—President Antonio Ramalho Eanes will begin a five-day state visit to Guinea-Bissau tomorrow, the first official visit by a Portuguese head of state to a former African colony.

Guinea-Bissau was the first of Portugal's African colonies to gain independence -- on Sept. 24, 1974 -- and President Luis Cabral has developed good relations with the former colonial power. Portugal wants to participate in the development of unexploited reserves of oil and aluminium bauxite which are among the few natural resources of the west African country which has a population of 575,000.

In June last year, through its good offices, Angolan President Agostinho Neto and General Eanes held their first meetings during a three-day summit in Bissau, which led to the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two countries.

General Eanes served with the Portuguese colonial army in Guinea-Bissau. He will visit Gabu, Boe, Bafata and Canchungo, towns linked with the independence struggle waged by African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) from the early 1960's.

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